

**Town Board of the Town of Mexico
Minutes of the Budget Public Hearing
Held November 10, 2022 at the Town Hall commencing at 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Eric Behling, Supervisor
Judy Greenway, Councilor
Russell Partrick, Councilor
Nicole Wild, Town Clerk
Absent: Cindy Robert, Councilor
Larry Barber, Councilor

And 1 audience member.

The public hearing was opened at 7:06 p.m.

Public comments include a suggestion that the 4-year account auditing contract will need to be renewed. The suggestion is securing multiple years as opposed to going year to year. Mr. Anderson said the current auditing company is EFPR, which has been great to work with, the only company that will give a 4 year price quote, and is a reputable firm who is familiar with municipalities.

Mr. Anderson said next year is the last year of the labor contract and discussion will need to occur regarding raises. Mr. Anderson said a highway employee will probably have to be union and pay dues but could opt out of the health insurance; the Town could create a different job title, file it with the county, and set a new rate for that position but suggested seeking counsel with our attorney. Councilor Greenway said if the garage is a closed shop, a new employee would have to be a union member.

Mr. Anderson said that the capital reserve for outlay improvements had to be backed down some. Mr. Anderson said the fire department retirement costs went up significantly so their contract is less than it was before because the pension increase ate up the budget increase.

Mr. Anderson suggested possibly add 10-20% upcharge to water going to Palermo and possibly Parish.

Councilor Partrick noted that the total assessment in 2020 was \$254,000,000 and in 2023 is approximately \$269,000,000. Councilor Partrick wants to ensure that the Town is raising the tax rate appropriately. Mr. Anderson said that every year, Mr. Van Patten runs town wide, outside village, village, fire department, and exempt properties reports. Councilor Partrick said assessments have gone up and doesn't want to keep collecting money without adjusting the tax rate based on assessments.

Mr. Anderson said revaluations can cause problems with the school because their rate increase is a year behind. Supervisor Behling said the state picked up the cost of revaluation at one time but no longer do. Supervisor Behling said the school and surrounding towns should be communicated with so they could all do one simultaneously.

The hearing was closed at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Wild
Town Clerk